THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As per the statistics available from the State Government, about 31 per cent of the foreign tourists who came to India during 1990, visited Rajasthan. A large number of domestic tourists also visited Rajasthan during the year.

(b) and (c) Central financial assistance for the development of tourism infra-structure is provided on the basis of specific proposals received from the States, subject to availability of funds and relative merits. During the current financial year, the State Government of Rajasthan submited two proposals for augmenting tourist facilities in the State. Both these proposals have been sanctioned.

Investment in Oil Sector

1083. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration to open oil sector to NRIs and for domestic investors in the country;

(b) if so, the areas in oil sector identified in which NRIs investment will be made;

(c) whether any NRI/domestic private firm has shown interest for investment in oil sector; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Government have decided to invite international and domestic companies, including NRIs, in the Fourth Round of biding for exploration for oil and gas.

(c) and (d) NRIs/domestic private firms have been responding in provision of various equipments and services to the national oil companies.

Tender Evaluation Norms of ONGC

1084. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain big houses involved in offshore oil drilling are pressurising ONGC to change the tender evaluation norms;

(b) if so, what are the names of these big houses;

(c) the reasons for asking for a change in the tender evaluation norms by these big houses; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Linking of Southern States with Gas Grid from Bombay High

1085. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to link the Southern States to Bombay High with a gas grid;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for neglecting South in the matter of linking with a gas grid; and

(c) what are the propsoals before Government to extend gas grid to South?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The matter is being examined by an Inter-Ministerial Group.